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## THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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G. Washington  
9/26/01

In re PCT International Application of )  
 )  
 CORNELIS A. TJEENK WILLINK AND )  
 ANDRE O.H. VANN BERLO )  
 )  
 Int. Appl No.: PCT/EP99/10497 )  
 )  
 Int. Filing Date: 29 December 1999 )  
 )  
 METHOD FOR REMOVING CONDENSABLES )  
 FROM A NATURAL GAS STREAM )  
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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Please enter the Article 34 Amendment before entering of the Preliminary Amendment.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Amend claims: 1-12

SUB 17

1. (Once Amended) A method for removing condensables from a natural gas stream upstream of a wellhead choke connected to a subterranean formation using a downhole inertia separator in which droplets and/or particles are separated from the gases and the gas from which the condensables have been removed is collected, characterized in that the method further comprises the steps of:
- (A) inducing the natural gas stream to flow at supersonic velocity through an inertia separator comprising a conduit having an acceleration section in which the gas stream is accelerated to a supersonic velocity thereby causing it to cool to a temperature that is below a temperature at which

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